

It is in the power of the States, by prohibiting the banks from issuing small notes for circulation, and by making the specie currency the basis of their own receipts and expenditures, to give the predominance to specie. The disorder now felt in money matters is attributed by the Secretary to the failure of many banks, to the large imports, and to the want of confidence between the borrower and the lender: he says it can not properly be attributed to the shipment of gold and silver, which is only a consequence of the other causes. The work on the Coast Survey makes good progress, and if supported a few years longer by Congress, will give us a complete knowledge of our coast and harbors, to the great advantage of commerce. Further action is recommended in order to provide the means of rescuing human life, in case of shipwreck, along our coast. The Secretary recommends additional provision for the public welfare upon several points of minor interest, to which it is not important to make more specific reference in this place.

The Report of Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, states the authorized strength of the army at 14,216 officers and men, while its actual strength is only 10,745. This difference is gradually disappearing under the operation of the law to encourage enlistments by increasing the pay. But little success has attended the efforts to remove the Indians from the Southern part of Florida, in accordance with their treaty stipulations: more vigorous efforts are in progress, which promise better results. In the other departments the Indians have repeatedly come into collision with our troops, and depredations upon frontier residents and upon emigrants are of frequent occurrence. In the West hostilities have occurred with the Sioux, the most powerful and warlike tribe of the West. In Texas the aid of volunteers has been frequently invoked. In New Mexico serious hostilities have been repressed by the prompt and energetic action of the troops employed there; but depredations upon the inhabitants are still of frequent occurrence, and in the department of the Pacific outrages of the most revolting character have been perpetrated upon families of emigrants to California and Oregon. The troops have been actively engaged in the effort to punish these aggressions. On the 16th of August, Lieutenant Grattan, of the Sixth Infantry, was sent with thirty men, by the Commander of Fort Laramie, to punish a band of the Sioux from which emigrants to the Pacific had suffered very severely. The entire detachment was massacred by about 1500 Indians, who formed and executed a deliberate plan for that purpose. It has not hitherto been found possible to concentrate the troops sufficiently to prevent these outrages without too great an exposure of the frontier settlements. Our entire loss, in the several actions with the Indians during the year, has been four officers and sixty-three men killed, and four officers and forty-two men wounded. For military purposes, the territory of the United States is divided into five commands: (1.) The Department of the East, embracing the whole country east of the Mississippi, having 2800 miles of seaboard, 1800 miles of foreign, and 200 miles of Indian frontier, has only eleven of its fifty garrisons furnished with men—leaving the remainder exposed to attack from any naval power. The total force in this department is 1574 officers and men, of which 500 are employed on the Indian frontier of Florida. (2.) The Department of the West, including all the country between the Mississippi

and the Rocky Mountains, has a seaboard foreign and Indian frontier of 2400 miles, 2000 miles of routes traversed by emigrants, and an Indian population of 180,000, a large portion of which are hostile to us: the force in this department is 1855 officers and men. (3.) The Department of Texas, with a seaboard of 400 miles, a foreign and Indian frontier of nearly 2000, communications of 1200 miles through an Indian population of 30,000, has a force of 2886. (4.) The Department of New Mexico has an Indian and foreign frontier of 1500 miles, Indian communications of over 1000, an Indian population of 50,000, and a military force of 1654. (5.) The Department of the Pacific has a seaboard frontier of over 1500 miles, an Indian frontier of 1600, more than 2000 miles of communication through an Indian country, an Indian population of 134,000, who are becoming formidable from concentration, a knowledge of fire-arms, and experience in their use, and a military force of only 1305 officers and men. The Secretary urges that this force in the several departments is entirely inadequate to the service required of it, and recommends such an increase as shall give greater security to our frontiers against Indian hostilities. The extension of our boundaries into the Indian territories, renders it quite likely that the ensuing years will be marked by still more numerous and more serious outrages than have been experienced hitherto. The Secretary insists that it is much more economical to maintain a regular army sufficient to suppress these outrages, than to rely upon militia force. During the past twenty-two years over thirty millions of dollars have been expended in the repression of Indian hostilities, to say nothing of the immense sums lost by the destruction of private property, etc. Much of this might have been saved, if the regular force had been sufficient to prevent the outbreaks which it was afterward necessary to suppress. The estimates for the support of the army during the coming year are \$681,688 more than those of the last year. This increase is caused by the law of last session fixing higher rates of payment for the rank and file of the army. An increase in the pay of officers is also recommended; the present rates having been fixed more than forty years ago, when money had a much higher value as compared with the price of food. Additional legislation is needed to settle questions of rank, to equalize the rates of payment, and to remedy other inconveniences in the department. Among other amendments it is proposed to give effect to brevet rank only when the President may see fit to authorize it. The organization of the staff is discussed at length, and a new system is recommended. It is proposed that there shall be nine Brigadier-Generals, instead of five, as at present, so that there may be one for each of the five departments, one for Quartermaster-General, one for Adjutant-General, and two for Inspectors-General. Various details are suggested in reference to the other departments, as well as to various branches of the general service. Improvements of an important character have been made in the academy at West Point, and experiments continue to be made to test the utility of various new inventions in fire-arms. The survey of the northern and northwestern lakes has made steady progress, and steps have been taken to secure the construction of roads in our new territories authorized by law.

The Report of Mr. Campbell, the Postmaster-

General, states that the number of post-offices in the United States on the 1st of December was 23,925; and the total annual transportation of the mails was 63,387,005, at a cost of \$4,630,676. As compared with the service of the preceding year, there was an increase of 1,494,463 miles, or two and a half per cent. in service, and of \$134,708 in cost, or about three per cent. The increase of railroad service is nineteen per cent. in transportation, and not quite one per cent. in cost: in steamboat service there has been a reduction of 15½ per cent., at a reduced cost of 29 7-10 per cent. Great difficulty is still experienced in fixing the rates of compensation for mail service on railroads, and Mr. Campbell expresses the opinion that more is now paid for that service than it is worth. The expenditures of the department for the year have been \$8,577,424, of which \$5,401,382 was for transportation of the mails, and \$1,707,708 compensation to postmasters. The gross revenue of the department was \$6,955,586, of which \$3,277,110 was from letter postage, \$2,146,476 from postage stamps sold, and \$606,148 from newspapers. This shows a deficiency of \$1,621,837, to which are to be added \$133,483 for balances due to foreign offices, making the total deficiency for the year \$1,755,321, which is \$361,756 less than the deficiency of the previous year. The increase in the revenue of the department over the previous year is \$370,399, principally in letter postage and the sale of postage stamps. The expenditures of next year are estimated at \$9,841,921, and the receipts at \$148,023 more. Special attention has been directed to the loss of letters containing money, which is already very great, and seems to be increasing. In order to secure greater safety, the Postmaster-General recommends the adoption of a system of registration, by which a receipt shall be given for any letter containing money, and its address registered at the office from which it is sent. By this means a missing letter can always be traced. The expense of such a system will be considerable, and it is proposed to meet it by an extra charge of five cents for registration, and that postage on all registered letters be prepaid. It is not proposed to make the registration of valuable letters compulsory, nor to make the department liable for their contents. The cost of the mail service for the last year on the several United States mail steamship lines has been as follows—

New York to Liverpool, Collins's Line, 26 trips.	\$358,000
New York to Bremen, 11 trips.	183,333
New York to Havre.	137,500
New York to Aspinwall, 24 trips.	289,000
Astoria to Panama, 24 trips.	348,250
Charleston to Havana, 24 trips.	50,000
New Orleans to Vera Cruz, 24 trips.	37,200
Aspinwall to Panama.	119,727

Total..... \$2,023,010

The Postmaster-General makes a variety of recommendations in regard to the several branches of this service.

The Report of Mr. Dobbin, the Secretary of the Navy, gives an account of the operations of the various vessels belonging to the service during the year. The Home Squadron has cruised principally among the West India islands and along the coasts of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. Lieutenant Strain, after a perilous and difficult survey of the proposed route for a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien, has reported it to be impracticable. The Brazil Squadron has been efficiently engaged in protecting our interests in that

quarter. The African Squadron has been occupied in taking measures to check the African slave trade. The Mediterranean Squadron has been efficient in protecting American interests there. The East India Squadron has had frequent calls upon it for the protection of American interests in consequence of the civil war in China. A treaty has been concluded with Japan, by which two ports are opened to foreign vessels, and shipwrecked American mariners are guaranteed protection and kind treatment.—The Secretary is earnestly in favor of increasing the Navy. Even with the addition of the six steam frigates in process of construction, our naval force will not exceed fifty vessels in condition for service. He enforces his views in favor of an increase at considerable length—urging that the money spent in building ships will be expended among our own mechanics, and that we ought to have the material of a Navy sufficient for all emergencies. The six frigates authorized by law are to be constructed in the navy yards at Boston, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Washington, and Norfolk—five of them by private contract. The Secretary renews his recommendation of a retired list, on reduced pay, for faithful officers who have become infirm—the discharge of the inefficient who have no claim on the government for services rendered—promotion regulated by capacity and merit, and not solely by seniority—and pay, to some extent controlled by sea service. He urges a better discipline in the service, not by restoring flogging—which he does not think desirable—but by a system of rewards for merit and of punishment by confinement, etc. He intends to adopt the apprentice system, for the introduction of a better class of seamen into the service. We have eight navy yards besides the one in process of construction in California. The yard at Memphis has been surrendered to the city, and abandoned by the Government. The Naval Academy is prosperous and efficient. The Naval Observatory demonstrates constantly the utility of its establishment. Lieutenant Maury's efforts are highly commended. The estimates for the Navy during the next year are \$16,241,931; the total expenditures of the past year have been \$10,801,845.

Various other documents accompanied the President's Message, of which it is not necessary to make special mention in this Record. The proceedings of Congress thus far have been merely formal.

The election for State officers in New York, which took place on the 7th of November, resulted in the success of the Whig ticket, and in the choice of 82 Whigs out of 128 Members of the Assembly. The aggregate vote for State officers was as follows:

Governor.		Lieutenant-Governor.	
Clark.....	156,504	Raymond.....	157,166
Seymour.....	156,495	Ludlow.....	128,663
Ullmann.....	122,282	Scroggs.....	121,037
Bronson.....	83,850	Ford.....	52,074
Canal Commissioner.		State Prison Inspector.	
Fitzhugh.....	161,006	Bowne.....	153,497
Clark.....	125,210	Andrews.....	124,735
Williams.....	58,244	Saunders.....	120,747
Burnham.....	112,963	Vernam.....	41,978

From California we have intelligence to the 16th of November. Various projects for works of internal improvement were actively canvassed.—Colonel Devereux J. Woodlief was killed on the 8th in a duel with Achilles Kewen. The difficulty grew out of a casual conversation, in which the latter was wrong, and the former obstinate in re-

fusing an explanation. They fought with rifles, and Woodlief was killed at the first fire.—The recently arrived overland emigrants report farther difficulties with the Indians, who have attacked several companies and destroyed a great deal of property with some lives.—The United States steam frigate *Susquehanna* arrived at San Francisco, on the 11th, from Hong Kong, having paid a visit on her way to Japan and the Sandwich Islands. The harbor of Simoda, which was thrown open to foreign commerce by the treaty with Commodore Perry, is represented to be small and much less convenient than was at first supposed. The surrounding country is highly cultivated, though but small supplies of provisions can be obtained at that port. The morals of the Japanese are represented as being in a low state.

From the *Sandwich Islands* we have information of the negotiation of a treaty of annexation between Mr. Gregg, the United States Commissioner, and the King of the Sandwich Islands. Its details are not yet known, but it is said to be extremely favorable to the United States. A pension is reported to have been provided by its terms for the members of the present Government, who will lose their positions by annexation. The English Consul, Mr. Miller, in a speech to the king, has made a very earnest and emphatic protest against annexation—representing that it would reduce the natives of the Islands to a state of slavery, and be ruinous to the morals of the country.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

Public interest is painfully excited by the intelligence from the seat of war, and by the unexpectedly stubborn resistance of the Russians. Although in every engagement the Allies have been victorious, they have suffered very heavy losses, and the ability of the enemy for fresh resistance seems to have been but slightly impaired. The whole number of British troops originally sent to the Crimea was about 28,000; but the losses from war and disease have so reduced the numbers that on the 1st of November they did not exceed 15,500. The news of the wasting attacks of the Russians, of their constant supply of fresh troops from the interior, and of the speedy approach of winter, which would put an end to the active operations of the siege, had stimulated the British government to the greatest energy in sending reinforcements to the Crimea. Two of the Cunard line of steamers between Liverpool and New York had been withdrawn for that service, and other steamers were also in requisition. Recruiting was proceeding with all practicable rapidity, being stimulated by a large increase in the bounty. General enthusiasm in regard to the war continued to prevail. Mr. Bright, however, in spite of this, has published a letter condemning the war in the most emphatic language, declaring that it was caused by the needless interference of the English government in the dispute between Turkey and Russia, and by its culpable neglect to terminate the difficulty when the Czar accepted the Vienna note. That note was prepared by the friends of Turkey, who urged its acceptance on the Russian cabinet. It was accepted—but as some difficulty arose about its terms, Russia proposed that it should be explained by the arbitrators at Vienna. Turkey, however, for whom England was acting, rejected it; and then England also abandoned it, and suffered herself to be dragged into war. Mr. Bright thus throws upon England the whole responsibility

for a war which he pronounces highly criminal and injurious to the interests of the country. The letter is very severely criticised, as unsound in argument and unpatriotic in its influence. Parliament had been summoned to meet on the 12th of December. The business to be submitted is said to be a proposition permitting the militia to be sent out for colonial service, in order to permit sending larger reinforcements of regulars to the seat of war. The financial embarrassments of the war will of necessity engage attention.

#### THE CONTINENT.

In *Germany* negotiations are said to have been resumed, with a view either to the restoration of peace, or to render it necessary for Austria and Prussia to take some decided part in the prosecution of the war. It is stated that Prussia has declared her willingness to present in the German Diet, for its action, a motion embracing the following points: 1. The German Diet, in accord with Austria and Prussia, recognizes the four points of the Vienna note as the basis of the future treaty of peace. 2. The Germanic Confederation approves the occupation of the Danubian Principalities by the Austrian troops. 3. After the four conditions have been accepted by Russia, Austria will make no other demands on that power. 4. Austria shall pledge herself not to take any further steps in the Eastern question, without having previously come to an agreement on the subject with Prussia and the Federation. 5. Austria, Prussia, and the Confederation shall address a collective summons to Russia, on the subject of the four conditions. 6. Should Russia not reply favorably to this summons, the military Committee of the Diet will immediately take all necessary measures to put the contingents of the Federal States on a war footing. 7. All future resolutions respecting the Eastern question shall be taken by the Diet. 8. Prussia and the Diet declare that they will give Austria their full support in her own territories, and in the Principalities, if she should be exposed to an attack from Russia. The result of this offer is not accurately known; but the probability was that it would be in substance accepted. The Russian ambassador at Vienna has also signified to the government the readiness of the Czar to negotiate for peace on the basis of the Vienna note. A Frankfort paper states that the French and English ministers had informed the Austrian secretary that the operations against Sebastopol would not be suspended, and that the Vienna note could no longer be recognized as a basis of negotiation.

In *Sweden* the King has obtained from the two Court Chambers a further grant of two and a half millions of dollars, demanded as a means of preserving neutrality. No definite explanations of the objects of the grant were made, but intimations were given that Sweden could not take ground against the Western Powers, and that any hostility must be toward Russia. In the House of Nobles the grant was carried by a vote of 122 to 19; in the House of Priests the vote was unanimous. In the House of Burgers there was considerable debate, and the vote stood 39 to 15.

In *Spain* a trial of party strength took place on the election of Provisional President of the Constituent Cortes. The candidate of the Moderate Progresistas was chosen, receiving 112 votes against 88 for the candidate of the Exaltados. The result created a dissension in the Cabinet, which led to the tender by General Espartero of his resignation.

In a speech to the Cortes he disavowed ambition of every kind, and said he should retire from the Ministry, leaving his colleagues in office. The Queen had declined to accept his resignation, so that at the latest dates the government remained unchanged. A good deal of disaffection is felt in political circles, but nothing at all threatening to the monarchy.

#### THE EASTERN WAR.

The war in the Crimea is still continued, but, up to the time of closing this Record, without any decisive result. After the battle of the Alma, narrated last month, the allied armies advanced toward Sebastopol; the Russians withdrawing in good order from the Alma, and being reinforced by a strong body of troops under General Liprandi. The Allies took possession of the port of Balaklava and the narrow road which connects it with Sebastopol, both being essential to the operations of the siege. The road ran through a gorge in the heights, which constituted the rear of the position which the English troops had taken up. Lord Raglan, the Commander-in-chief, had prepared the defense by placing heavy guns on the heights, and below them the 93d Highlanders, under Sir Colin Campbell, who barred the road leading to the village. A plain extended from the heights northward toward the Tchernaya, which was intersected by a low irregular ridge about two miles and a half from the village. This ridge was defended by four redoubts, which Turkish troops had been directed to hold in front of the centre of the English position. Prince Menshikoff sent General Liprandi to the Tchernaya with some 30,000 troops, to attack the Allies of this point; his object being to assail them in rear, to turn the right and seize Balaklava. In carrying out this plan General Liprandi, on the morning of the 25th of October, divided his forces and commenced the attack, part advancing by the military road, and the rest by the village of Kamara, in front of which the English had erected a strong defensive work. This, as well as the redoubts held by the Turks, was carried by the Russians, who then advanced their cavalry, which was rapidly followed and supported by artillery. The smaller portion of them assailed the front and right flank of the 93d, but were repulsed by a steady and well-directed fire. The larger mass went toward the British cavalry, which met them with a heavy charge, and effectually broke them up. The Russians, though repulsed, still retained the guns they had taken in the redoubts, and had re-formed upon their own ground, with artillery in front and on their flanks. Lord Raglan sent an order to the Earl of Lucan to advance and prevent the removal of the guns. The Earl understood the order to be a peremptory one to attack, and accordingly ordered the Earl of Cardigan to advance with the Light Brigade. The order was obeyed with great spirit. Lord Cardigan charged upon the very centre of the Russian position, but being assailed by a murderous fire from batteries on both flanks and by volleys of musketry, besides being met by a superior cavalry force, was forced back with very great loss. He was somewhat protected in his retreat by a diversion effected by the French. The engagement was then suspended for the day, Lord Raglan resolving to contract his line of defense to the immediate vicinity of Balaklava and the heights in the rear of the British army. Next day the Russians sallied forth from Sebastopol, seven or eight thou-

sand strong, and attacked the right of the English division under Sir De Lacy Evans, who repulsed them, however, with promptitude, being sustained by fresh detachments of both French and English troops. The losses in these engagements were very heavy on both sides, the Russians suffering most.

A still more formidable attack was made by the Russians on the 5th of November. They had received still farther reinforcements from Asia and from the Danube, and their whole force, including the garrison, was estimated at 60,000 men. On the morning of the 5th, strong columns of their troops came upon the advanced pickets covering the right of the English position before Sebastopol. The Second Division, under Major General Pennefather, with the Light Division, under General Brown, were immediately brought forward, together with several others, to resist the advance of the Russians, who had, under cover of skirmishers, brought up numerous heavy batteries, their guns amounting in all to over ninety. The English were once or twice driven back, until they were finally supported by two battalions of French infantry, when the Russians were repulsed. The engagement continued for some time, and resulted in the maintenance of their ground by the Allies, and in the defeat of the Russian attempt, but with very great loss on both sides. The Russians finally withdrew, leaving an immense number of their dead upon the field. While this attack upon the English right was going on, a sortie from the garrison was also made against the French on the left, but without success. This is the last battle known to have taken place. Reports received through Russian channels state that the fire of the besiegers had greatly slackened. The losses in these successive engagements have been very great. On the 5th, the loss of the English was 459 killed, 1933 wounded, 198 missing—that of the French was 1726 killed and wounded. The Russian loss is stated at 2961 killed and 5791 wounded. Among the English officers killed were Lieutenant-General Sir George Cathcart and Brigadier-Generals Strangways and Goldie. Reinforcements for the Allies had begun to arrive, and preparations were being made for a winter prosecution of hostilities. Upon the receipt of General Canrobert's dispatch concerning the battle of the 5th, the Emperor wrote him a letter, expressing his entire satisfaction with the conduct of the army, and his sympathy with the losses it had sustained and the fatigues it had endured. He had hoped that the victories of the Alma would have seriously weakened the force of the Russians, and that Sebastopol would have more speedily fallen. The obstinate defense of that town and the reinforcements of the enemy had for a time checked the success of the Allies. The Emperor adds that considerable reinforcements are already on the way—that this increase would soon double the allied force, and enable it to resume the offensive—that a powerful diversion is soon to be made in Bessarabia—and that in foreign countries public opinion becomes more and more favorable. "If Europe," he says, "should have seen, without alarm, our eagles, so long banished, displayed with so much *éclat*, it is because Europe knows that we are only fighting for its independence. If France has resumed the position to which she is entitled, and if victory has again attended upon her banners, it is—I declare it with pride—to the patriotism and indomitable bravery of the army that I owe it."

## Editor's Table.

WHAT AWAITS OUR COUNTRY? Our country has an area of nearly three millions of square miles. Compared with the greatest empires of antiquity, it is equal in extent to the dominion of Alexander or Rome in the days of their grandeur. Within fifty years it has increased more than three-fold. Our territorial additions have chiefly been made along the Gulf of Mexico, and in regions tributary to it; while in the remote West we have acquired an immense domain on the Pacific. If, at first, our national possessions were mainly connected with the Atlantic and a portion of the Gulf, they now have a shore-line of over twelve thousand statute miles along the coasts of the three large bodies of water that wash the North American continent.

The position of a country, considered in a geographical view, exerts a powerful influence over its civilization. Its history, if not written beforehand, is indicated by the physical circumstances that belong to its peculiar location. There is, at least, a sort of symbolism—a prophecy in soil, rivers, atmosphere, and ocean—that points out its line of action. Nature has formed the earth for man's abode; but she has distributed its advantages with an unequal hand. If we except the primary laws of matter, the different sections of the globe may be practically regarded as a series of habitations for the members of the human family. Would it be thought poetic if we were to speak of it as an *E Pluribus Unum* world? And yet, if not in structure, it is such in its divisions. Climate runs through a scale of vast variety. We have the *zero*, where the existence of our race is barely possible; and, advancing from that limit, we pass through all modes of physical life to the highest range of adaptation. Utility and pleasure, power and progress, means and ends, are constantly measured out in such degrees as may best subserve the wise purposes of creative skill. The earth has not been given to all to be used alike. It is a home, a sphere, a discipline, for every one; but not in the same unvarying method. Providence has no general plan that does not embrace many minor plans; and hence the material relations of men are so ordained as that dissimilar processes of education and development may contribute to a complete system. The sunshine, the rain, the dew, are the same agents every where; but what a contrast between the grain, the fruits that they cause to grow! What a breadth between the flower-harvest of Persia and the corn-harvest of England—between the olives of Sardinia, the grapes of Italy, the tea of China, and the wheat of New York—the rice of Carolina, and the cotton of Alabama! By these peculiarities of physical law man is trained; to him they are an organic providence; and from them he derives those lessons of experience which fit him to practice the duties of industry and self-reliance. Nations are taught in the same manner. A part of the earth is apportioned to them for sustenance and support. Whatever can be produced beyond their own immediate necessities may be converted into articles of commerce. The interests of the world are thus united, and each fulfilling its distinct relations to nature, and accomplishing its work, becomes tributary to the other.

Our original territory, sloping from the Alleghany range to the Atlantic, and looking eastwardly to the old world, was admirably suited to the incipient forms of colonization. It was not only sufficient for our early trade and commerce, but it afforded the best field for us to serve out a faithful apprenticeship in acquiring the art of settling a continent. Our leading ports were near the ocean, and our most productive lands—so far as then occupied—were convenient to tide-water. Every thing that we needed in laying the foundations of empire was provided there; and especially for the successful issue of the War of Independence, it was the most advantageous location that we could have possessed. Whether we contemplate the facilities for home or foreign intercourse, the opportunities for combining our strength, the subjugation of the Indian tribes, or the establishment of a commercial basis, the Atlantic seaboard was the region for us first to redeem from the wilderness and make the seat of civilization. The colonists were from commercial nations, and hence would naturally seek such proximity to the sea as accorded with their tastes and business. But, apart from this, it was the true training-ground for our countrymen. Its physical arrangements were exceedingly serviceable in constituting American society, and in qualifying us to found new States. It has enabled us to transplant our experience with our institutions, and to preserve that singular continuity of growth which has marked the extension of State authority and Federal jurisdiction over the immense territories of the West and the Southwest.

Our present position is one of striking interest. The frontier-line of the United States, on the British Possessions, is over three thousand miles in length; the shore-line of the Gulf of Mexico about three thousand five hundred; the Atlantic coast nearly seven thousand; and the Pacific over two thousand miles. Allowing for nearly fifteen hundred miles that border on Mexico, we have, within these boundaries, a territory that is five-sixths the size of Europe, and more than one-third of the whole area of the North American continent. Each great subdivision of the country enjoys ample natural advantages, or is capable of perfecting them by means of artificial improvements. On the north, the chain of Lakes; on the south, the Gulf; on the east, the Atlantic; on the west, the Pacific; large rivers draining interior regions, and offering easy outlets to the thoroughfares of commerce; mountains stretching across the entire scope of the land so as to modify climate and promote the interests of agriculture; each territorial section favored in its physical geography, and yet intimately connected with the others: all combine to furnish every facility for intercourse, trade, and enterprise that the most extensive system of civilization can require. Our shore-line averages one mile of coast to every two hundred and forty-one miles of surface, and the inland portions of the country are so situated as to be within reach of the avenues of transportation. Looking at the mere fact of location, one of the most important considerations in the settlement of a people, our national territory presents a most fortunate provision both for diffusion and concentration. A diagram, drawn with reference to the arts